

products in the world during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the total quantum of agricultural exports is still very less;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and details of the items exported; and

(d) the steps taken to promote agricultural exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India's share in the world trade in agricultural products during the last three years was as under :-

Year	Percentage Share
1992	0.83
1993	1.00
1994	0.85

(Source : FAO Year Book, 1994)

The details for the year 1995 and 1996 are not available.

(b) and (c) India's share in the world trade of agricultural products, except for in the traditional items exported, has been low due to lack of export orientation in domestic production. The domestic production is not fully tuned to the market abroad in terms of quality and packaging. Further, as a policy, exports of items of mass consumption are only permitted in a manner which does not compromise the food security of the country. The agricultural products exported from India include tea, coffee, raw cotton, rice (basmati and non-basmati), wheat, coarse grains, tobacco, spices, cashew, sesame and niger seeds, oil meal extractions, sugar, horticulture and floriculture products, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices and meat and meat preparations.

(d) Steps taken to enhance export of agricultural and allied products include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of minimum export price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, air freight subsidy on export of selected horticultural, floricultural products and fresh vegetables to identified destinations, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

[English]

Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd.

1100. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since rejected

the proposal for expansion of a project in respect of Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development Scheme for Coir Workers

1101. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the development schemes proposed to be undertaken by the Government for ensuring the welfare of coir workers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : The Coir Board has been implementing various welfare programmes for the benefit of the workers in coir producing States namely : (i) Model Coir Village Scheme; and (ii) Assistance for implementing Coir Workers' Welfare Fund, (A scheme formulated and implemented by Government of Kerala exclusively for Kerala).

Welfare measures under the Model Coir Village Scheme include construction of houses for SC/ST workers, electrification of houses of SC workers, provision of sanitary latrines, smokeless choolas and drinking water, provision of beating sheds and ratt sheds etc.

Government of Kerala is implementing a scheme through the Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board which provides assistance towards payment of pension, family pension, financial assistance for permanent or temporary disability, maternity benefit, medical facilities etc. The Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 160 lakhs to the Coir Board from 1991-92 to 1995-96 under the head "Welfare Scheme". The Coir Board has provided financial assistance under the Model Coir Village Scheme to Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh to the extent of Rs. 20.06 lakhs from 1992-93 to 1995-96.

Economic Reforms

1102. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "States left out to reform process" appearing in the Financial Express dated January 31, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the important observations/shortcomings pointed out in the report and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of action plan worked out/proposed to cover up deficiencies; and